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Agenda item 10 (b)

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION

Report of the first meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties Not Included in Annex I to the Convention

Note by the secretariat

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 8/CP.5, requested the secretariat to facilitate the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties Not Included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), *inter alia*, by coordinating its meetings and compiling reports on its regional workshops and meetings for consideration by the subsidiary bodies.

2. Pursuant to decision 8/CP.5, the secretariat facilitated the organization and preparation of the report of the inaugural meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts, which was established with the objective of improving national communications from non-Annex I Parties.

3. The attached report, submitted by the Chairman of the CGE, Dr. José Miguez (Brazil), provides information on the outcome of the first meeting of the Group, held in Bonn, Germany on 8 and 9 June 2000.

4. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation may wish to take note of the report and provide further guidance to the Group on the conduct of its work in accordance with the annex to decision 8/CP.5.

FIRST MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES NOT INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION

Report by the Chairman
Dr. José Miguez (Brazil)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. Pursuant to decision 8/CP.5, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties Not Included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) was established with the objective of improving national communications from non-Annex I Parties.

2. The terms of reference of the CGE as contained in the annex to the above decision are as follows:

(a) Exchange experience and information on the preparation of national communications, including consideration of subregional experience, through its meetings and workshops, on the basis of agendas to be decided by consultation among the participants at each level of meetings;

(b) Consider, as appropriate, the needs for and availability of financial resources and technical support, and the identification of barriers to and gaps in this support;

(c) Consider, as appropriate, information in national communications from non-Annex I Parties in accordance with the guidelines for the preparation of initial national communications by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention contained in the annex to decision 10/CP.2;

(d) Review existing activities and programmes to facilitate and support the preparation of national communications by non-Annex I Parties with a view to identifying gaps and making recommendations to better coordinate these activities and programmes in order to enhance the preparation of national communications;

(e) Identify the difficulties encountered by non-Annex I Parties in the use of the guidelines contained in the annex to decision 10/CP.2 and in the use of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) methodologies and other models, and make recommendations for improvement where appropriate;

(f) Identify the analytical and methodological issues, including technical problems in the preparation and reporting of greenhouse gas inventories, in particular with respect to the improvement of data collection, the development of local and regional emission factors and activity data, and the development of methodologies, where appropriate, with a view to enhancing the quality of future inventories;

(g) Examine national communications, in particular greenhouse gas inventories, submitted by non-Annex I Parties, with a view to arriving at recommendations on ways of overcoming difficulties in the use of the IPCC methodologies and the UNFCCC guidelines relating to inventories contained in the annex to decision 10/CP.2, and on possible innovations, and produce reports thereon;

(h) Encourage interaction among experts from all Parties.

3. In accordance with decision 8/CP.5, the CGE comprises five experts each from Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as six experts from Annex I Parties. Additionally, representatives from three international organizations, namely the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, the National Communications Support Programme and CC:TRAIN (United Nations Institute for Training and Research) were selected by the secretariat to participate in the Group (see annex I).

B. Scope of the report

4. This report covers the proceedings of the first meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts, held in Bonn on 8-9 June 2000.

II. DISCUSSIONS

5. On Thursday, 8 June 2000, the Chairman of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), Mr. John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda), opened the first meeting of the CGE by welcoming the participating experts to the meeting. He emphasized the importance of the work of the CGE to the effective implementation of the Convention and expressed his confidence in the ability of the Group to accomplish its tasks in an expeditious manner.

6. The SBI Chairman proposed that to facilitate the effective discharge of the Group's mandate, a Chairman and a Rapporteur be elected to guide the conduct of its business. He suggested that these offices of the CGE be rotated among the regions at each meeting of the Group. He further proposed that the Rapporteur nominated at each meeting of the Group would chair its subsequent meeting. The experts of the CGE elected as Chairman and as Rapporteur of the first meeting, Mr. José Miguez (Brazil) from the Latin America and the Caribbean region and Mr. Ayité-lo Ajavon (Togo) from the African region, respectively.

7. A provisional agenda previously circulated by the secretariat was discussed and adopted to guide the conduct of the first meeting of the Group (see annex II).

8. The conclusions and recommendations of the first CGE workshop for the Latin America and the Caribbean region were presented by the workshop's coordinator, Ms. Julia Martinez (Mexico). The CGE also discussed the summary report of the workshop as contained in document FCCC/SBI/2000/INF.4. It further discussed the reports of the three working groups constituted during the workshop to address national greenhouse gas inventories (working paper No. 9 (2000)), vulnerability assessment and adaptation options (working paper No. 10 (2000)), and financial and technical needs (working paper No. 11 (2000)). The CGE members further discussed Working paper No. 8 (2000) on "National greenhouse gas inventories of non-Annex I

Parties of the Latin America and the Caribbean region: preliminary synthesis and methodological issues", prepared by the UNFCCC secretariat to facilitate discussions at the workshop.

9. The CGE noted that the outputs of the Latin America and the Caribbean workshop were very useful and that the structure and format for the conduct of the meeting could serve as a guide for subsequent regional workshops.

10. The Group discussed the terms of reference of the CGE annexed to decision 8/CP.5. To ensure that all aspects of the terms of reference are addressed in the Group's work plan, a checklist of action to be taken by the CGE members was prepared, discussed and adopted (see annex III). The Group further agreed to provide a technical examination of the national communications submitted so far to the UNFCCC secretariat and to prepare an assessment of some cross-cutting issues.

11. In order for the CGE to prepare its final report in time for consideration by the SBI at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), a schedule of meetings and activities was discussed and agreed upon. Decision 8/CP.5 called for the organization of two other regional workshops in 2000 for the African and Asian regions, and for the CGE to meet again during 2000, prior to the resumed thirteenth session of the SBI. Accordingly, the CGE scheduled a regional workshop for Africa to be held during the second week of August and a regional workshop for Asia to be held during the third week of October. The CGE further decided to schedule its second meeting after the third regional workshop during the week prior to the resumed thirteenth sessions of the subsidiary bodies (9-10 November 2000) in The Hague, the Netherlands. During that meeting, an analysis of the outcomes of the three regional workshops will be prepared and used to refine the work plan for the year 2001, including the development of an agenda for a subsequent regional meeting or meetings.

12. The Group noted that, to complete its tasks as defined by its terms of reference, it would not be possible, due to time constraints, to conduct three separate regional workshops and prepare its final report in time for consideration by the subsidiary bodies at COP 7 (November 2001). The CGE therefore decided to organize a joint regional workshop from 5 to 10 March 2001. The Group was of the view that this approach would allow for a better examination of all relevant cross-cutting issues as well as interregional comparisons.

13. After the joint workshop, a group of drafters, comprising the Chairman and Rapporteur of the workshop, the chairmen and rapporteurs of the three working groups to be established at the workshop to discuss regional issues and priorities, and up to six other CGE members, preferably from Annex I Parties, will prepare a draft report of the joint workshop. Additionally, they will prepare a draft final report of the CGE to the COP, for consideration by all its members at its third meeting prior to the fourteenth sessions of the subsidiary bodies.

14. The fourth meeting, scheduled for 6-7 August 2001, will consider and adopt the final report of the CGE for consideration by the subsidiary bodies at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties.

15. The CGE submitted for consideration by the SBI at its twelfth session an indicative cost of implementing its work plan in order to fulfil its mandate under decision 8/CP.5 (see annex IV). The budget indicates a shortfall of some US$ 500,000.

16. Members of the Group from some non-Annex I Parties expressed their desire to take the opportunity offered by the sixth session of the COP and the fourteenth sessions of the subsidiary bodies to carry out further consultations which would facilitate the attainment of the Group's mandate. The budgetary implications of covering the additional daily subsistence allowance needed for these experts to participate in the meetings would be approximately US$ 70,000.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
(Members)

Present

Africa
Dr. Ahmed Amin (Egypt)
Dr. Isabelle Niang Diop (Senegal)
Prof. Ayite-lo Ajavon (Togo)
Mr. Richard Muyungi (United Republic of Tanzania)

Asia
Mr. Aimin Ma (China)
Dr. Mahendra Kumar (Fiji)
Mr. Mahboob Elahi (Pakistan)
Dr. Taha Zatari (Saudi Arabia)
Dr. Vute Wangwacharakul (Thailand)

Latin America and the Caribbean
Mr. Brian Challenger (Antigua and Barbuda)
Mr. Philip S. Weech (Bahamas)
Dr. José Miguez (Brazil)
Mr. Luis Cáceres (Ecuador)
Ms. Julia Martínez (Mexico)

Annex I Parties
Dr. Christopher Mitchell (Australia)
Dr. Anke Herold (Germany)
Mr. Ivan Mojik (Slovakia)
Dr. Othmar Schwank (Switzerland)
Mr. Jack Fitzgerald (United States of America)

International organizations
Dr. Luis Paz (CC:TRAIN (UNITAR))
Dr. Bo Lim (UNDP/UNEP/National Communications Support Programme)
Mr. Taka Hiraishi (IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories)

Absent

Dr. Jean-Philippe Thomas (France) with apologies
Dr. Lauraine Lotter (South Africa) with apologies

Annex II

AGENDA

Thursday, 8 June 2000

9:00 DSA payment for funded participants

9:30 Opening of the meeting by SBI Chairman, Ambassador John Ashe

9:40 Organizational matters:
- Selection of Chairperson
- Selection of Rapporteur

10:00 Presentation of the report of the first regional workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean by the workshop coordinator (Ms. Julia Martinez)

10:30 Discussion of workshop outputs
12:30 Lunch
14:30 Views on a possible work plan for the Consultative Group of Experts
18:00 Close

Friday, 9 June 2000

9:00 Continuation with deliberations on work plan
11:00 Procedural matters:
- Participation in regional workshops
- Presentation of reports to the subsidiary bodies

12:00 Report of the meeting
12:15 Other matters
- Financing for participation in CGE meetings
- Participation in COP and SB meetings

Annex III

CHECKLIST OF ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THE CGE

	MANDATE	ACTIONS
5(a)	Information exchange	- workshops - identify other (subsequent) process - networking
5(b)	Financial resources Technical support	- what exists (status) - barriers - gaps - long-term capacity-building
5(c)	Information in national communications	- gaps - existing guidelines (UNFCCC)
5(d)	Existing activities and programmes	- identify programmes being used - identify how programmes (multilateral and bilateral) are facilitating the preparation of national communications how to better coordinate them - identify if regional coordination was established
5(e)	Difficulties encountered with UNFCCC guidelines (decision 10/CP.2) IPCC methodologies - Inventories - Impacts and adaptation Other models	- identify problems - suggest improvements
5(f)	Greenhouse gas inventories implementation Technical problems in preparation and reporting - data collection - emission factors - activity data - development of methodologies	- identify gaps and problems, especially whether a system for data archiving was established - suggested improvements
5(g)	Methodological issues related to greenhouse gas inventories - IPCC methodologies - 1996 Revised Guidelines - Good Practice Guidance - UNFCCC guidelines related to inventories	- how to overcome difficulties in use - identify innovations
5(h)	Encouraging interaction between experts	- identify South-South cooperation - consolidate and improve the roster of experts - networking

Annex IV

COST ESTIMATES FOR MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

(United States dollars)

REQUIREMENTS	
I. Estimated requirements for 2000	
Regional workshop (Latin America and the Caribbean)	75,000
Two regional workshops (Africa and Asia)	150,000
First CGE meeting, Bonn, Germany (7 funded participants)	21,000
Second CGE meeting, The Hague (16 funded participants)*	54,000
Subtotal I: Estimated requirements for 2000	**300,000**
II. Estimated requirements for 2001	
Joint regional workshops, venue to be decided (61 funded participants)	223,180
Third CGE meeting, Bonn, Germany (16 funded participants)*	57,500
Fourth CGE meeting (16 funded participants)	57,000
Subtotal II: Estimated requirements for 2001	**337,680**
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS 2000-2001	**637,680**
INCOME	
Funds received to date	
USA	100,000
Finland	13,371
Bonn Fund	21,000
TOTAL INCOME	**134,371**
NET TOTAL REQUIRED	**503,309**
* DSA for 2 weeks for the participation of NAI Party experts in two additional meetings (COP 6 and SB 14)	70,000
NET TOTAL REQUIRED	**573,309**

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